



TRANSGENDERIST'S INDEPENDANCE CLUB

(TGIC)

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P.O.Box 13604

ALBANY, N.Y. 12212-3604

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WHAT ARE WE?

Most knowledgeable professional therapists and counselors recognize the need for cross-gendered people to meet, socialize, and share experiences with others similarly afflicted; as being a necessary part of developing a healthy attitude in dealing with gender conflicts. Transgenderist's Independance Club (TGIC) is a non-sexual gender support group, interested in helping gender conflicted persons with a broad spectrum of services (listed later in this package). With nearly 80 members at this time, TGIC shares the honor of being one of the largest and most active groups of its type in the country.

Transgenderism from trans meaning to crossover, gender meaning the male and female in all of us, and ism or the partaking in a practice; is a concept which covers a range of ideas, ideals and states of life. A transgenderist can be anybody from the transvestite who just wants to wear women's panties, to the transsexual person who believes themselves to be of the opposite sex (sex other than their body dictates). Such a definition obviously includes a very broad range of people. If you feel you, or someone you know, fit in that range, you are curious or are an interested professional, contact us.

As a group we welcome all gender conflicted people, their significant others, and people with a sincere interest in helping or supporting our community. We are attempting for the first time to show that all gender people, while having obvious differences, have many points in common. We share with each other our experiences so that we may all grow as individuals through mutual support.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. I love to go out while crossdressed. I have read about others like me (books from adult bookstores) and they all appear to be gay. Am I gay?
- A. In the gender world there are some bisexual people, some gays, but by far the largest majority of gender people are heterosexual and prefer a mate of the opposite sex. You can with counseling, find an honest and satisfactory answer to this question.
- A. What is the difference between sex, gender, and sexuality? Aren't they all the same?
- A. No. **SEX** refers to the physical body as was born, in other words your genetic sex or what your body actually is. **GENDER** refers to the spirituality of the soul within that body, whether the person feels their nature to be either masculine or feminine. **SEXUALITY** refers to whom a person seeks as a partner for intercourse, as in homosexuality or heterosexuality. All three are mutually exclusive areas of human nature, one has no bearing on the others.
- A. I am a man who likes to wear women's underwear under my work clothes, how can you help me?
- A. By showing you, through our existence as a group, that there are many people like yourself who have an attraction to clothing of the opposite sex. Also that you are not alone in having and fulfilling your desires.
- Q. I have hidden my yearning to wear clothes of the opposite sex for years, what should I do?
- A. Seek out others like yourself and/or professional help. You will get assistance in your quest for knowledge and will meet others like yourself.

- Q. My wife just found out that I crossdress, what should I do?
- A. There are a lot of ways that people try to handle this problem, but the best is to tell the truth and let your wife or significant other handle things at their own pace. Don't force them into seeing you dressed or force the issue upon them. Try to get them involved with TGIC's COUPLE'S SUPPORT GROUP.
- Q. Since I was little I have dreamed that I would wake up a female, or that I would be female someday. Am I a transsexual?
- A. A lot of transgendered males have this dream, and will not or cannot say that they are transsexual, nor do they think they are. This is a common occurrence among transgenderists. Your best bet is to seek a gender counselor and others like yourself to see where you fit in.
- Q. If I become a practicing transgenderist will I progress to transsexualism?
- A. Not necessarily. You may stay a gender person all of your life, but no more than you are right now.
- Q. I have just found out that my husband crossdresses and feel it is a sickness. Why can't he just be cured?
- A. Unfortunately very little is known about the causes of the need to express oneself as a sex opposite from that of the physical body, and due to this, there is no known effective or permanent cure. Most therapy revolves around helping the person come to terms with the need to dress or even change their sex, and adjusting their lives accordingly. Dressing isn't in and of itself dangerous, however lack of understanding and compassion by lovers and others does tremendous damage to the self esteem and psychological makeup. We are here to help reinforce a healthy positive self image not only for the crossdresser but wives, family, and friends as well.

Other questions will be answered on request. Be assured that you are not the only one. You are not alone. For help or answers to your questions contact us by writing or calling. (Unfortunately we are not professional counselors but we are trying at this time to find some to work with us) You may rest assured that any information you share with us will remain confidential.

#### RECOMMENDED READING:

- TV/TS TAPESTRY (magazine 4 times/year \$10.00ea. available through TGIC P.O.Box 13604 Albany, N.Y. 12212-3604)
- TRANVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS: TOWARD A THEORY OF CROSSGENDERED BEHAVIOR (\$29.95 available from International Foundation for Gender Education P.O.Box 367, Wayland, MA. 01778)
- THE TRANVESTITE AND HIS WIFE (available from International Foundation for Gender Education Address above)
- MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES (available from International Foundation for Gender Education Address above)
- THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON (available from International Foundation for Gender Education Address above)

ABOUT TGIC

SERVICES:

- Regularly scheduled social gatherings
- Safe House --Key Club
  - Storage
  - Dressing Room
  - Meeting Room
- Professional Referrals
- Support
  - Peer Counseling
  - Weekly general rap sessions
  - TS support group M-F/F-M
  - Couples support group
  - Big Sister program
- Newsletter
- Shopping Guide
- Boutique
- Make-up and beauty assistance and feminine critiqueing
- Community outreach and Education programs
  - Public relations
  - Speakers Bureau
  - Library (books and tapes)
- Networking to other similar organizations across the country
- Special Events and Outings

DUES:

Yearly membership \$35.00  
 Newsletter Only \$20.00  
 Key Club (storage, private use of the facilities \$35.00/mo.---\$420.00/yr.

Couples support, peer/rap sessions and newsletter FREE with paid up yearly membership.

.....CUT HERE and Mail to US.....

CARE TO JOIN?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FEMME NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ CAN WE PHONE YOU? Y N

BEST TIME TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_ ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF: \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU HELP ARE GROUP BY ASSISTING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS? CIRCLE

- Public education    Media appearances    Research    Planning Activities
- Newsletter    Shopping Guide    Political Activist    Big Sister Club Officer
- Public relations    Fund Raisers    Speakers bureau

My present situation doesn't allow me to actively participate Y N  
 ( It's okay we understand)

This information is for club use only and will be kept confidential.